



City of Surprise
Special Disability Advisory Commission (DAC)
Monday, July 30, 2012 – 6:00 P.M.
Surprise City Hall – Council Overflow Room
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, Arizona 85374

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members Present:

John Yaeger, Vice Chair
Michelle Lewis
Roland Winters
Shelia Kaiser
Dr. Deborah Jones

Staff Present:

Michael Mason, Risk Manager
Ricka Gallagher, Risk Analyst

Absent:

Michelle Hernandez, Chair

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Yaeger called the meeting to order at the Surprise City Hall, Council Overflow Room, 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza, Surprise, Arizona 85374, on Monday, July 30, 2012 at 6:06 pm.

2. CURRENT EVENTS AND REPORTS

Commissioner Lewis contacted several homebuilders in Surprise to find out which ones build accessible homes. Two homebuilders replied – KB Homes and Pulte Homes. Pulte said they have one model that is wheelchair accessible, which Michelle will visit to take measurements of the door. Pulte didn't respond to her question on cost. KB Homes has four homes that are for sale that could be modified to be accessible, but they did not specifically provide an answer as to if they would charge extra for these modifications. There are two communities in Maricopa and Phoenix where houses can be built to exact specifications, if requested, for no additional charge. She will find out more information about that. She also will be attending her HOA's meeting next month.

Commissioner Jones had nothing to report.

Commissioner Cline sent out some emails to contractor associations to get feedback on visitability. She hopes to have a meeting with them next month. Commissioner Lewis would like to contact a couple individuals that were referred to this commission for information on disability issues, etc. Mr. Mason said Commissioner Lewis could do whatever research she wishes.

Commissioner Kaiser mentioned the sign-in sheet will be an agenda item on the August 15, 2012 regular DAC meeting.

Vice Chair Yaeger did not get a chance to speak with a supervisor at Ultrastar Theater. He will follow up with them in August. Commissioner Winters will provide Vice Chair Yaeger Ultrastar corporate's information.

Commissioner Winters was interviewed recently by a local paper about a rally his Wheelchair Travel Club is holding in Surprise next April. It's a weeklong event and 40-50 individuals with wheelchairs are expected to attend.

3. **STAFF REPORTS**

None

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Andy Cepon, citizen, spoke after the group discussion. He mentioned the intent of all boards & commission meetings is that they be held in City Hall to avoid double scheduling, which is what happened tonight and will happen again next Monday. He then mentioned that the percentage of disabled individuals in the community (3%) do not make up the real number and that's misleading. This group has also not followed through on suggestions he has made at previous DAC meetings, such as attending other board/commission or council meetings and pressing staff to provide costs to televise meetings as there has been no answer from the City Manager. Lastly, money can be requested from council. It requires this group get before the Council and show the Council why funding should be allocated for items the group feels need addressed.

4. **AGENDA**

A. Discussion re: updating the DAC Strategic Plan, DAC goals, and objectives

Vice Chair Yaeger mentioned that the group decided at an earlier meeting that they would have their Strategic Plan completed and ready to be presented to Council at either the September 11th or September 25, 2012 Council work study session. He suggests the 25th is better so there's a little more time to finalize the content, but there is pressure to get this done in August as the Council is meeting then. Ms. Gallagher mentioned that, in order to present the group's Strategic Plan to Council, it must first be approved at a regular DAC meeting. In order to meet the timeline established by the group, the DAC will need to approve the final product at its August 15, 2012 regular meeting.

The Council's workshop meeting on August 7, 2012 will be to discuss boards and commissions. Members of the commission will try to attend this meeting as members of the public to let the Council know who they are and what they are in the process of working on. Whoever attends this meeting can bring back what they learned at the next regular DAC meeting.

Before going into the different areas, Commissioner Cline suggested the group review the current Strategic Plan mission statement and see if the wording needs revised. After much discussion, the proposed new Strategic Plan mission statement is:

The Disability Advisory Commission will focus on community-wide accessibility that addresses the needs of people with disabilities by increasing public awareness and advocacy. The Disability Advisory Commission will outline a work plan and advise the City Council, staff and community-at-large regarding projects, process improvements and services.

Vice Chair Yaeger feels the group should have not only goals but objectives for each area. The objectives provide something contemporary that the group is working on now, while the goal could be more long-term in nature.

Vice Chair Yaeger reported the areas this group previously agreed on that should be part of the new Strategic Plan. After discussion, the proposed new areas are:

Business
Transportation
Connectivity, Communication & Outreach
Emergency Preparedness
Advocacy, Housing & Visitability
Financial Solutions (may/may not be a category)

BUSINESS

- Goals:
 - ✓ To have community businesses voluntarily participate in the removal of barriers and to improve accessibility.
 - ✓
 - ✓
- Objectives:
 - ✓ Facilitate business owners in specific aspects of accessibility
 - ✓ Equate economic benefits to create barrier-free environments
 - ✓
 - ✓

TRANSPORTATION

- Goals:
 - ✓ Evaluate the effectiveness of the new Regional Public Transit Authority (RPTA) program for individuals with disabilities in the community.
 - ✓
 - ✓
- Objectives:
 - ✓ Ascertain results quarterly from www.valleymetro.org
 - ✓
 - ✓

CONNECTIVITY, COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

- Goals:
 - ✓ Increase community awareness of the Disability Advisory Commission's commitment to serve individuals with disabilities and their families.
 - ✓
 - ✓
- Objectives:
 - ✓ DAC city webpage
 - ✓ Monthly meetings televised, by delayed camera or via Skype
 - ✓ Meetings have close captioning
 - ✓ Dedicated call-in phone line for "calls to the public" portion of meetings
 - ✓ Quarterly newsletter
 - ✓
 - ✓

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Goals:
 - ✓
 - ✓

- Objectives:

✓
✓
✓

ADVOCACY, HOUSING & VISITABILITY

- Goals:

✓
✓
✓

- Objectives:

✓
✓
✓

FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS (may/may not be a category)

- Goals:

✓
✓
✓

- Objectives:

✓
✓
✓

Commissioner Lewis recommended that members of this group attend the upcoming Council meeting on August 14, 2012. Council needs to know this transit change is something the DAC is very much in favor of, and transportation needs to be part of the DAC's Strategic Plan.

Vice Chair Yaeger does not understand why the Communications Department can't update the commission's webpage. Mr. Mason explained what he was told by April Reynolds, HR Director, and suggested it would perhaps be best for Mrs. Reynolds to attend next week's meeting so any questions can be answered then.

Janeen Gaskins, the City's Grants Coordinator, will return to meet with the commission at next Monday's meeting to clarify the process – who does what, who will complete paperwork, who will present to Council, etc. This item has already been added to the agenda. Commissioner Cline stated the group could develop goals and objectives for Financial Solutions after discussing grants next week. Costs for items the Commission would like to pursue funding for will need to be determined so the group can explore available funding options from other sources such as grants, businesses, non-profits, etc.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Yaeger motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cline seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Michael E. Mason

Michael E. Mason, Risk Manager